

Cariboo *and* Northwest DIGEST

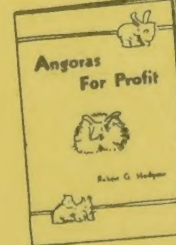
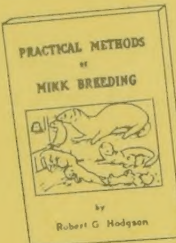
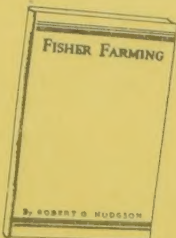
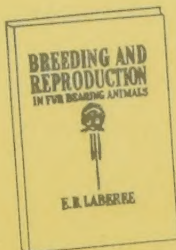
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DIGEST



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VOLUME 5 NUMBER 6

DR. FRASER BUCKHAM

COLLECTION

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DR. FRASER BUCKHAM

EDITORIAL COLLECTION
by **G.G. GROOME**
Williams Lake, B.C.
BCPM-MODERN HISTORY 975.189
A Concise Plan For The Liquidation

of Britain's Debt

2 Kings 1V 7... "Go...and pay thy debt and LIVE and thy children."

SINCE ROMAN times, up to the present day, world leaders have maintained a system of slavery. Whether this is incidental or deliberately countenanced is difficult to fathom. Physical slavery itself, was abolished in the British Empire in 1833 but slavery yet continues in another guise. I refer, particularly to the enslavement of the people by an iniquitous system of public debt. Oppressive taxation and other evils are contingent causing high cost of production, the chief factor in Britain's present financial dilemma. Our children are taught to avoid debt. Such virtuous policy should be practical, not only in our domestic lives, but collectively, as a Nation. The gamut of progressive effort, from manufacturer to manual worker, each and all no longer earn and produce for themselves, but mainly for their creditors. This condition is the fundamental cause why the inculcation of the "isms" became possible; which can be halted if our leaders will give more study to the mathematics of tomorrow rather than the politics of today.

Approximately sixty percent of all earnings and production go to feed the maw of the taskmasters; a minority group which controls the yoke of slavery. A yoke consisting of billions of pounds - "frozen assets" - most of this money having been scattered to the winds, expended in shot and shell, now of no economic use; and Justice would be served if such yoke were broken by release of this money, for the benefit of humanity, not only for the Nations directly concerned, but by expansion of world markets and the setting up of a decent standard of living for teeming millions of the under-privileged in Asia and Africa.

Great Britain has lost much of her prestige, multiplication of her debts being a contributory factor. The Nation, forced into an invidious position, wherein she must suffer imposition financially defenceless against the aggressor must now experience humility and indignity by accepting charitable assistance (?) from abroad.

Continued on page 26

PRECARIOUS VOYAGE

W. N. 'Rusty' CAMPBELL

oooooooooooooooo CONCLUSION ooooooooooooooooooooo

In our last issue, we left Warburton-Pike, noted traveller and explorer, along with his companion 'John' and their native guides, several days travel up the Parsnip River from its junction with the Finlay. In their effort to get through to McLeod's Lake Post from Hudson Hope, early in December, 1890, they had been frozen in. After abandoning their canoe and caching part of their equipment, they struck off on foot up the Parsnip River. With only a few days scanty rations left, but feeling that they were nearing the junction of the Pack River with the Parsnip, and with Fort McLeod Post at the headwaters of the Pack - some members of the party lightened their loads by caching their blankets in the trees. Warburton-Pike lightened his load by caching, not his blankets but his RIFLE, in a tree - thereby totally disregarding the old saying, "When the women throw away their babies, it is time enough for men to discard their rifles...." The story goes on.....

Their two small billy-cans were also hung on a tree, as by now they had used up all of their scanty supply of food. Now, more than ever, it was necessary to push forward with all the speed they could muster. Probably it was just as well that they didn't know the truth at this time; that their destination, McLeod's Lake, was many many days weary foot travel away yet.

However, their so-called guide, Pat, the Indian from Fraser Lake, was sure they were only a short distance from this Post, "two days



travel at most" he stated. He was very wrong.

Towards the late afternoon at the end of an exhausting day's travel they came to the mouth of a good sized river flowing into the Parsnip from the west. The party had been travelling in a strung out position through the thick snow-laden woods when this river suddenly came into view between the trees. The sight cheered them up no end, even in their starved and dispirited condition, as they were sure it was the long looked for Pack River which would shortly lead them to McLeod's Post and the end of their troubles. They called cheery greetings to each other and almost gladly plodded up the snow covered ice between pine clothed banks. However their hopes were soon dashed when they stumbled around a bend of the river and saw two of their party, one the Fraser Lake Indian guide, returning towards them with gloom and despair written plainly on their faces.

These two had gone ahead up the tributary till they spied a log cabin sitting in a small clearing a short way back from the river. Hurriedly they had waded through the snow to the bank and plowed their way towards the habitation, only to find it cold and abandoned with its door swung open on its broken down leather hinges. It was then that their guide chose to disclose that he was hopelessly lost, and did

not know whether the river they were travelling on was the Pack, or whether they had passed its mouth days before.

Under these circumstances they were stared in the face with two choices; that of continuing their seemingly endless fight up the wild Parsnip Valley in the hope of connecting with the proper route to McLeod's Lake Post, or of retracing the long heart-breaking trail, now without food and in a very much worse condition than when they had started out. They had no rifle, no pots, and no food to cook if they did have them, and with the exception of two of the party who had kept their blankets, they were without covering at night.

Warburton-Pike decided against going further up the Parsnip on the grounds that if they had passed the mouth of the Pack River, to continue up the Parsnip in the state they were now in would be to surely perish, whereas they had a fighting chance of winning their way back over the trail to Hudson Hope even in their present condition.

It must not be lost sight of that neither he nor any members of his ill-fated party had any means of knowing that what they had stumbled on was the mouth of the Nation River, chief tributary that flows into the Parsnip from the west. The mouth of the Pack River which leads to McLeod's Lake was miles further up the valley, at least as far again as they had already come from Finlay Forks.

They had now been about fourteen days on their route, much of the time following the windings of a large river, on foot in the deep snow without snowshoes, and without equipment, but still return they must if they were to live, and life was still sweet to them, as it is even in the most despairing and hopeless of situations. Besides they had in their leader a man of great heart and courage who could never say 'die' tough and cruel as the northern wilderness can be at times.

The only equipment that the old deserted cabin could supply them with in their fight against such odds, was a half rusted five-pound lard pail, and this they took along. Humble as it was, it may have been the means of saving some of their lives as they struggled along in the untenanted forest. During the first day of their return trip this billy-can was used to boil snow water in which strips of moose hide cut from the tops of their moccasins were placed.

This provided a certain amount of hot, greasy water, and fragments of some substance for their hunger-gnawed stomachs to digest. Sometimes even suggestion plays its part when men are in dire straits, and this may have been the case then.

However, on the second day, the bottom of the old lard pail dropped into the camp fire, and so even this humble comfort was denied them. About this time, the only other white man in the party, a young Englishman called "John" by Warburton-pike, lost what little heart and courage he seems to have had, and it became necessary for the leader to berate and even threaten him in order to keep him plodding along with the others.

The next few days became a nightmare of battling snow and cold without food or covering, but doubly so for the intrepid man who led them. The temperature had now dropped to a low point and if it had not been for the unending of Pike to keep the stragglers on their feet and moving, one or two of the faint hearted may have perished. He seems to have had the the undaunting kind of spirit or character that when put to full test disdains the idea of quitting.

It seems that "John" was a poor example for his Indian companions. Murdo, his head boatman, was a great help to Pike, and was commended later for his cheerfulness and cooperation. The other two, Charlie, from Quesnel, and Pat from Fraser Lake, did not show up well at times when all reserves of courage, will-power and cheerfulness should have been mustered in their battle for survival.

From this point onward it was a straggling and well-nigh exhausted company that Pike tried to lead. Sometimes one of the company would sit down or just tumble down in the snow and decide the effort was too great to get up. By threats, and sometimes by blows, he kept them on their feet, till late one afternoon they arrived at their cache of scanty foodstuffs made a short distance from Finlay Forks.

The small amount of mouldy flour left in the sack was all the difference between death by starvation and exposure and a fighting chance to reach Hudson Hope Portage. It was boiled in a liberal amount of snow water, for now they had regained possession of their cached billy-cans, and eaten as a kind of porridge, but the leader very wisely saw to it that the portions were strictly rationed. A half starved person can only assimilate a very light diet for the first day or two after reaching a place of abundance.

The following day, with new energy and in better spirits, they pushed on and came in sight of the Rocky Mountain Pass near the mouth of the Finlay River. The ice was solid and though deeply covered in snow, travel was much easier than the former stumbling along by way of cutbanks and spruce bottoms which they had experienced along the Parsnip River. However,

Continued on page 44

British Columbia - 1851-1914

Prob. "FOURTH" Oct. was also "THIRD"

The following is the THIRD of a series of excerpts from the historical volume entitled "British Columbia"

by F.W. HOWAY and E.O.S. SCHOLEFIELD

published in 1914 by the S.J. CLARKE Publishing Co. and now out of print



IN THIS ISSUE

The Discovery of Keithly and Antler Creeks

Howay spells it "Keithly"

P. 74
Keithly Creek, which flows into Cariboo Lake, the source of the north branch of the Quesnel River, was discovered in 1860 by "Doc" Keithly, George Weaver and their companions. It was the first of the real Cariboo creeks, and soon became one of the most famous, though not at all a rich creek, as compared with its more famous neighbors. The creek itself, as well as its tributary, Snowshoe, and Harvey and Cunningham creeks, which flow from the eastward face of Bald Mountain, had been discovered early in 1860, but the absence of gold-bearing stratum on the surface had delayed its exploitation, and it was not until late in the fall of that year that its auriferous character was ascertained. It rose at once into prominence as a supply centre for the entire region of the North Quesnel River. The creeks which radiate from Bald Mountain, Keithly, Harvey, Cunningham, Snowshoe, Grouse, Antler, Lowhee, Williams and Lightning appear to occupy the same location, but not the identical channel of the old gold-bearing creeks. Where gold was first found on them is said to have been the spot where modern erosion had laid bare, for short distances, the deeper channels of the ancient streams.

P. 75
Late in the fall of 1860, John Rose (who met a tragic death in 1863) and his partner McDonald with "Doc" Keithly and George Weaver, set out from Keithly Creek in search of new diggings. Ascending that creek for about five miles, they took a course northeastward up a ravine. Reaching Snowshoe Creek, a branch of Keithly, they followed it to its source, some six or seven miles further, near the summit of the watershed dividing the streams flowing into Cariboo Lake from those flowing eastward, northward and westward into Bear, Willow and Cottonwood Rivers.

Thence the whole surrounding country lay unrolled before them. Northward and eastward the horizon was bounded by lofty and rugged mountains; towards the west and northwest the prospect was more level; while immediately below lay rolling hills intersected by valleys and ravines. 'Twas man's first view of Cariboo. Over the whole region lay the mantle of solitude and silence - gold existing without contention or struggle. Traversing this summit in the same general direction they came upon another creek, at a distance of about twenty miles from Keithly. The creek winds through the centre of a narrow valley and is surrounded by hills sloping down to flats and benches of alluvial deposit; the bed-rock on which gold was found lay but a short distance under the surface, and in many places cropped out. Here was the richest deposit yet found in British Columbia - considerable quantities of gold being found on the bare rock. One pan produced \$25 - a second \$75. The fortunate prospectors, however, had their ardour somewhat cooled the next morning by awakening to find a foot of snow on the ground. Here again, besides the actual value of the find, was the strengthening of their faith in the auriferous nature of the country, for they found a kind of slate rock covered with red gravel and said to bear a close resemblance to the gold-producing gravels of Californian streams. These discoverers tried to keep the secret, but gold, like murder, will out.

Returning to Keithly Creek for provisions, an incautious word at "Red-headed Davis's" store gave the clue, and in mid-winter, on snowshoes, over four or five feet of snow, miners set out from Keithly to stake the vacant ground on Antler. Many claims were recorded, and in several instances, the same ground was taken up by different parties. This led to disputes.



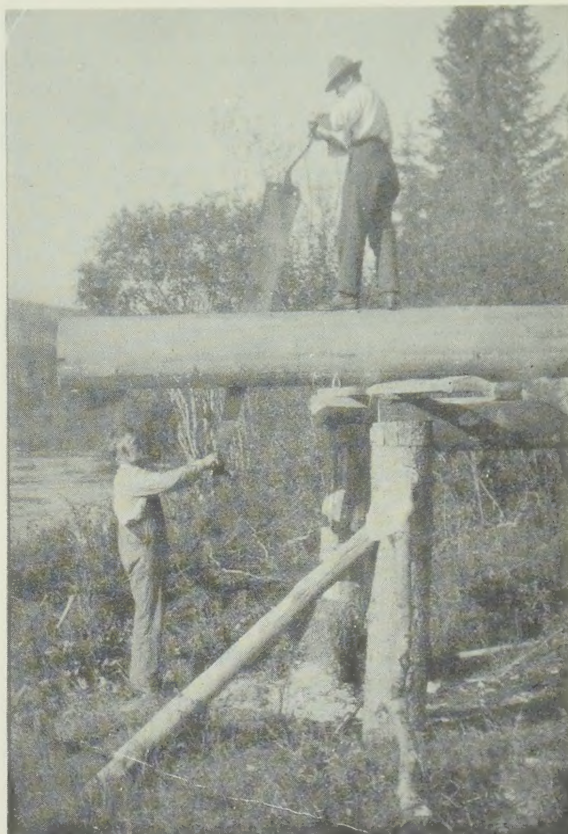
Skiers atop Mt. Agnes, or 'Bald Mountain'. White men had their first glimpse of these mountains 89 years ago when the gold-seekers came north from Keithly.

Mr. Nind, Gold Commissioner for the district, with headquarters at Williams Lake, came in over the snow to settle these conflicting claims. Arriving in March, 1861, he found on Antler Creek one log cabin, built by Rose and McDonald; the remainder of the men were living in holes dug in the snow, which was six or seven feet deep. Even under these conditions some prospecting was being carried on, with successful results, though the labour of clearing away the snow and sinking holes to bedrock was excessive.

WILLIAMS, LIGHTNING, and LOWHEE CREEKS

But Antler Creek was only the portal of Cariboo, a region studded with mountains of considerable altitude, closely packed together. The creek coursed around the greatest of the three peaks of Cariboo - Mt. Agnes, commonly called Bald Mountain, impressively grand and sublime are these majestic spurs of the Rockies, towering to six and seven thousand feet. The land of golden promise, so firmly believed in, so earnestly sought, lay just on the other side of Mt. Agnes, only twelve miles away.

When the mid-winter rush was made upon Antler Creek, a party, amongst whom were Edward Stout, Michael Burns, "Fidele" or Vital, and William Dietz (commonly called Dutch Bill), started in search of other fields. Crossing the ridge which culminates in Mt. Agnes, they kept to the northward and descended upon a creek which forms the headwaters of the Willow River. This was Williams Creek, the richest, the most celebrated of all Cariboo creeks. Dutch Bill, its discoverer, after whom it was named, found gold at the canyon, a spot



Lumber for sluice boxes and camp equipment was made the hard way - by whip-saw.

about halfway between Richfield and Barkerville, as afterwards located. He died in Victoria in 1877 - like many others of Cariboo's famous miners, miserably poor.

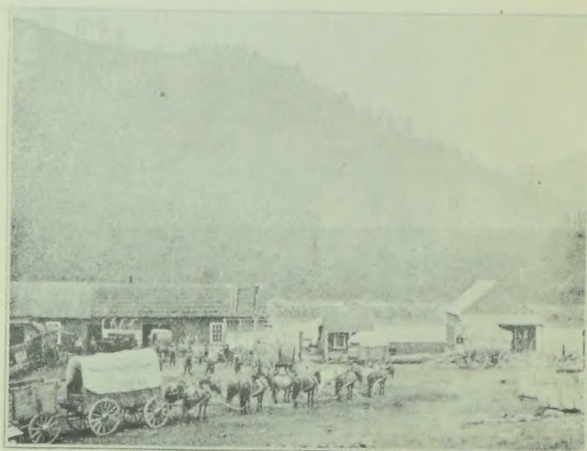
At first Williams Creek gave no hint of its immense deep-hidden wealth. The canyon



THE CAMERON, TINKER, AND WATTE CLAIMS, CAMERON, WILLIAMS CREEK



TILTON CREEK, CARIBOO ROAD



OLD VIEW OF BLACKSMITH SHOP, YALE

where discovery was made was the very poorest part. Dutch Bill's prospecting showed about 75 cents to the pan, yet that was good pay, but in no wise suggestive, even to the most optimistic, of the world-renowned riches of the Steele, the Diller, the Cameron, and the Ericson claims.

Returning, the party spread the news of their find, and pell-mell went the mad rush to Williams Creek. No roads or trails existed in the Cariboo country at that time, and each party took the course which they judged best, for, as already mentioned, from the tops of the ridges Cariboo was like an open book.

No. 9. Thus in making from Quesnel River and Keithly Creek to Williams, the miners came upon Lightning Creek, which empties into Swift River, and Lowhee Creek which flows into Jack of Clubs Lake. The origin of these names may be of interest. The latter creek was

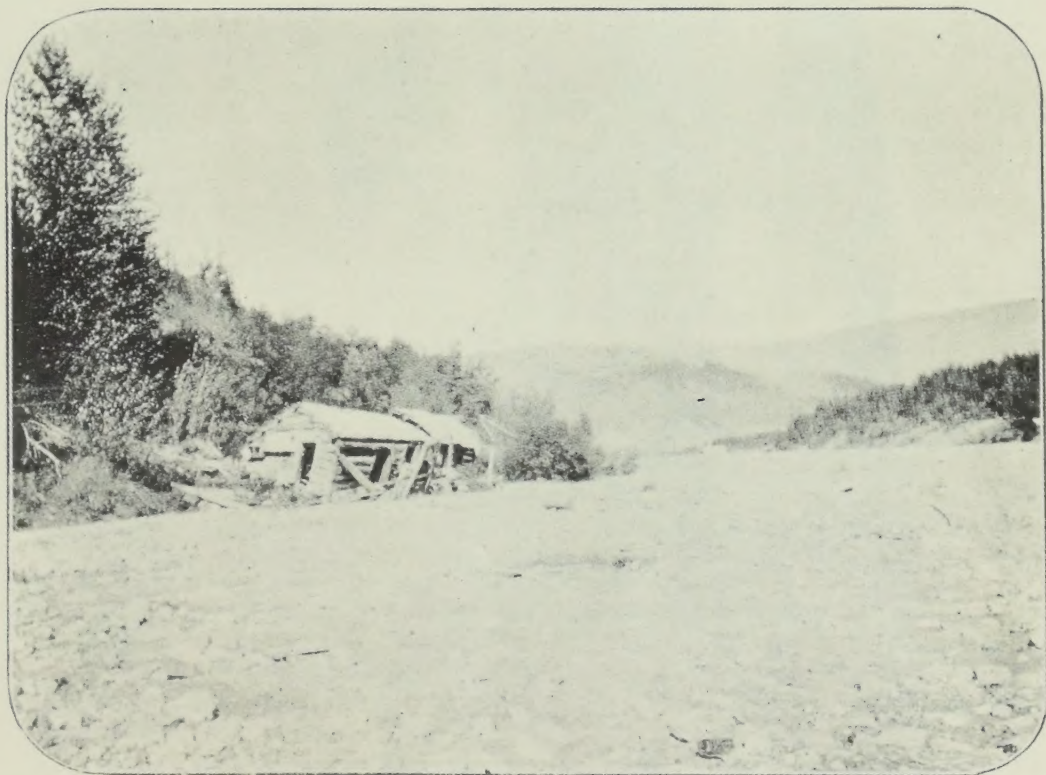
discovered by Richard Willoughby in 1861 and named by him in honour of the "Great Lowhee," a secret society at Yale, in which he was a prominent member. The former owes its name to the following incident. A party, while travelling through its valley, was suddenly overtaken by one of those thunder-storms common in the mountain regions; and one of the party, feeling greatly inconvenienced by the severity of the storm - being drenched to the skin - exclaimed aloud, "Boys, this is lightning," feeling fully convinced that this was the most emphatic expression he could use to express his opinion of the inclement weather.⁷⁶ Another version of this story is that: "Early in 1861, 'Bill' Cunningham 'Jack' Hume, and 'Jim' Bell, three gold hunters, started southwards over the mountains from Jack of Clubs Creek on a prospecting tour.

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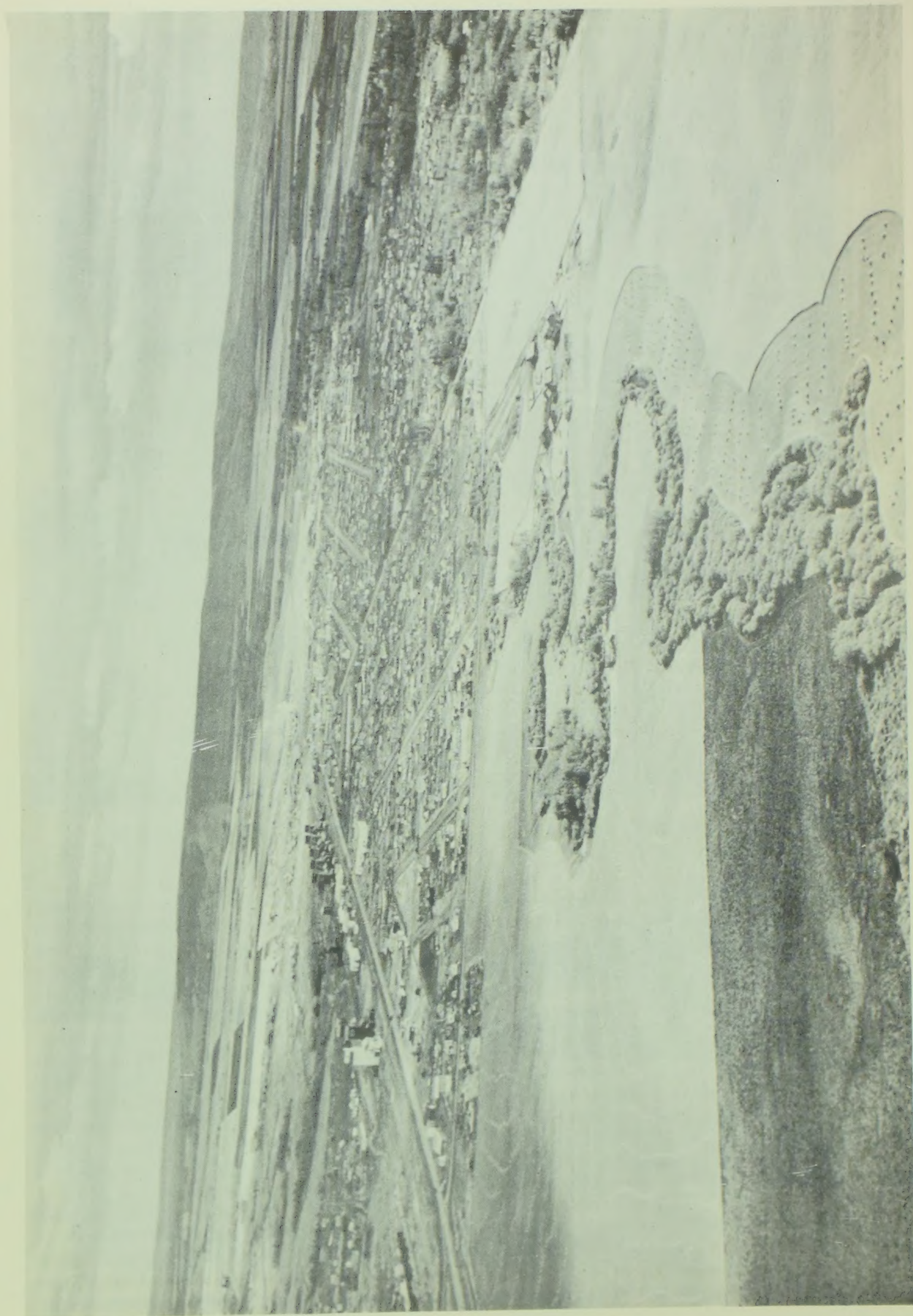
76 *Overland Monthly*, vol. 4, p. 262; *Mining Report*, 1875.



VEITH'S RANCH, KEITHLEY CREEK, CARIBOO



RUIN OF "CARIBOO CAMERON'S" CABIN, BARKERVILLE



Dawson Creek, B.C., terminous of the Northern Alberta Rly. Note how town is surrounded by farms.
Photo by D. L. Smith, Dawson Creek

Peace River Land Boom



One day last summer a slight built little man showed up at Pouce Coupe, B.C., governmental headquarters for B.C.'s. Peace River Block. The stranger called at the government offices there and revealed the fact that he was Mr. Vincent, recently arrived from French Morocco in North Africa, where he had farmed for many years, and that he was in search of farmland - GOOD farmland - and lots of it. This much government officials gathered with some difficulty, for the man spoke very broken English, having only recently arrived in the country. They sent for one of the Lalogue brothers, long time French-Canadian residents in the town, to act as interpreter.

After conferring for some time it was found that Mr. Vincent, after choosing Canada as the land in which he wished to settle, had sold out, lock, stock and barrel, and had taken the first boat over. He started in Quebec, seeking the kind of land he wanted - good wheatland - and considerable acreage. Just any land, wasn't going to do, for he new his soil, and in French Morocco he had farmed on an extensive scale, having had six sections under cultivation and the most modern of equipment. Though even at that, his had been just an 'average' farm. One farm in the district from which he had come had over 100,000 acres under cultivation.

Gradually he had worked his way westward across Canada. Nowhere could he find the land that he wanted, not in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba or the bald prairies. Always there was something the matter. The soil was too poor - the climate too dry - the acreage insufficient - the price exorbitant - the land too heavily timbered or something - always "something" was not right. When working his way across the prairies he had heard of the Peace River country, and so had come. What he had seen so far had pleased him much.

And now, if these gentlemen would be so kind, would they please direct him to such places where he would find open government lands which might suit his needs and which could be bought for a reasonable sum? They could, and did. They showed him maps upon which all open lands were indicated, and point-

ed out the proximity, or reverse, to railway or highway, and made arrangements for him to meet various real estate agents who were acting as Agents for the Crown in the sale of government owned lands. They would show Mr. Vincent land - and lots of it!

An agent bundled him into a car and took off, showing him around the settled portion near the railway, and then, on to the north side of the Peace River. When he was shown the land 40 miles west of Fort St. John, on the north side, near the Alberta-B.C. boundary, he was delighted with what he saw. Between the small farming community of Clayhurst, 26 miles west of Fort St. John, and Boundary Lake (which straddles the boundary) the land was as level as a table top except for the indentations formed by the lake, and feeder and outlet streams. There was very little brush, and what there was had been killed by a swift-moving grass fire some years before - one of those fires which sweep quickly over the surface of the ground leaving the soil unharmed. It could be cleared at the rate of acres per day, with modern equipment. Vincent stooped and eagerly picked up a handful of soil. It was rich black loam, and it felt 'right'. He allowed it to trickle through his fingers as he gazed about him. "This ees it!" he exclaimed. "This ees what I 'ave come so far to find."

He immediately bought 1600 acres at \$2.50 per acre. 'It would be enough for the time being,' he said. He bought a house in Dawson Creek, where he will winter until he can build on his land next spring. In the meantime he has concentrated on preparing his new farm for next year's crop. With modern equipment he had 250 acres cleared and broken in a short time. As harvest time approached and this year's bumper crop began to show itself in all its golden glory, he was even more convinced, if that is possible, that he had come to the right place, and promptly bought another 2,000 acres, "for his brother" he said.

If this account of an individual settler arriving in the Peace River Block were multiplied by two hundred, it will give the reader a small



Typical farming district in Peace River - (2 miles south of Dawson Creek)

Airphoto by Bilvic Studios, Dawson Cr.

idea of what has been taking place in British Columbia's 'bread basket' during the summer of this year. Hundreds of people have come throughout the spring and summer, to purchase Crown Land. And they are still coming. In the Clayhurst- Boundary Lake area alone, over 45 sections have been taken up this year, and the new settlers have anywhere from 250 to 500 acres broken and ready for next year's crop.

The influx is not to the Clayhurst area alone, but throughout the whole Peace River Block, and especially the area to the north of the Peace River. At Upper Pine, some 20 miles north of Fort St. John, 50 sections have been taken up, at Rose Prairie another 50 sections, and lesser lots in every direction. By mid-October an estimated 150,000 acres had been bought, and agents expect that before winter starts in, another 80,000 acres will have been bought.

Not all new settlers are buying in 1,000 and 2,000 acre lots like Mr. Vincent, for most of them are dry-belt prairie farmers who have

given up the struggle against hail, wind and drought. The crop failures of previous years has not left them with sufficient funds to start out in the manner of our former citizen of French Morocco. At least fifty percent of them are from the Saskatchewan dust-bowl region, some are from southern and central Alberta, and a good many have come from southern B.C. - all of them buying what they can afford, quarter sections, half section, sections - of rich farmland in the one area in Western Canada which has never known a crop failure - an area where 55 bushels of wheat to the acre is not uncommon, and where a thirty bushel crop is considered pretty 'low'.

By mid-October of this year virtually every last kernel of this year's bumper crop was 'in', and every grain elevator at Dawson Creek, the railhead, and at Pouce Coupe, was being filled to capacity as scores of trucks rolled in and joined the long line of vehicles, each loaded with a portion of the golden harvest and waiting its turn to dump its load and return for another.

A prominent Fort St. John business man, Gordon Moore, last year purchased 300 acres of land for \$1500, six miles west of town, just 'up the hill' from his planer mill at Charlie Lake. He broke the ground last year - this year his crop amounted to 15,000 bushels, which grossed him \$21 000. Part of his (wheat) crop ran 53 bushels to the acre. West of Rolla, just inside the Alberta border south of the river, wheat yields were as high as 55 bushels to the acre. One enterprising young farmer, who must have 'sensed' the extremely good year early in the spring, rented the strip of land surrounding the airport at Dawson Creek. From the narrow strip, plus his own 160 acres, he took off a \$9,000 crop. A University of B.C. Professor of Agriculture, Dr. Moe, purchased for \$5,000 a quarter section of land some 12 miles southeast of Fort St. John. He seeded 63 acres of it with the new 'Rhizome' strain of alfalfa, which he had helped to perfect. He harvested better than 5,000 pounds of seed - every pound of which was spoken for in advance of harvesting - at \$3.00 per pound.

The enumeration of huge crop yields could go on endlessly, for it is a land of spectacular crops - and no failures. And it is apparent from this year's tremendous influx of new settlers that the rest of Canada is at last beginning to appreciate this fact. Next year it is predicted that the influx will be even greater, for the people who have come and "seen with their own eyes" what the country can produce, will certainly write home and tell their friends and relatives about it. But there is room for thousands. The land resources have barely been scratched. The present influx is merely settling

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Above and Below - Harvest time in the Peace River Block. This year's crop is expected to top 5 million bushels.



Fort St. John, B.C. - supply centre for the district north of the Peace River (49 miles from railhead)



Pouce Coupe's new hospital - to be completed when funds are available.

WANTED - \$65,000 - TO COMPLETE A HOSPITAL

Pouce Coupe Hospital Project Stymied

About a year ago, the citizens of Pouce Coupe and farmers of the surrounding district decided that "something" should be done in regard to hospital accommodation. Records at Pouce Coupe, administration centre of the B.C. section of the Peace River Block, showed that the population of B.C.'s bread basket had increased nearly tenfold over its prewar population - yet hospital accommodation had lagged far behind the population increase.

The whole district was suffering from the same lack of facilities, affecting almost every community, large and small, the length and breadth of the province. The almost 30% increase in B.C.'s population in the ten years since the start of World War 2, without a corresponding increase in hospital facilities, has literally put B.C. 'on the spot'. This is especially true since the inception of B.C.'s compulsory Hospital Insurance plan just over a year ago. Under this plan, everyone, rich or poor is compelled to pay yearly premiums of varying amounts, depending on the size of the family, or married or single, for which they

are guaranteed hospital accommodation when in need of such, and the payment of all hospital (but not doctor) bills. With facilities already strained to the maximum, this plan put an extra load on available accommodation, for since payment of premiums was compulsory, B.C. citizens felt (and justifiably so) they had the right to expect hospitalization for ailments which, prior to the inception of the plan, they for reasons of economy, may have had treated at home. They had been forced to pay for the service - and they expected to get it. The resulting state of affairs is that the Government of B.C. has contracted to render service which it is hopelessly incapable of providing.

As one noted columnist, Elmore Philpott, pointed out, "what the B.C. Government is doing is tantamount to obtaining money under false pretenses,".... an opinion widely held throughout the province.

Patients are today being treated 'at home' or in offices for illnesses which in pre-war years they would have been hospitalized -

Continued on page 37

"A Glimpse In The Forest"

THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES
ABOUT "TREES"

by H.B. BINNEY

"I wonder about the tree...." Robert Frost.

BEFORE actually launching into a series of stories about such familiar things as trees it might be just as well to explain why; to account, in a word, for the birth of the interest. For some years I worked for the British Columbia Forest Service, starting in and around Prince George, then at Fort St. James and, finally, in the Peace River District. I was always being moved north. Spring of the year saw the Canada Geese and the Binny family heading towards the Arctic Circle, the former instinctively and the latter rather reluctantly. Having penetrated some distance up the Alaska Highway, I quit.

During this time it naturally fell to my lot to make out no small number of Reports. The Government feeds upon such documents; paper forms its steady and staple diet; its appetite knows no bounds. However, the point is that my reports were doomed to monotony. Particularly was this so with regard to the species of trees reported on. Whether they were being logged, burned, stolen, bought, sold or devoured by an army of insects, they were always of the same few varieties. And so, in the quiet of the evening or even the stillness of the night, it occurred to me with increasing frequency that the world comprehended kinds of trees other than Lodgepole Pine, Spruce, Balsam, Tamarack and Fir, and that "Non-commercial Cover" did not invariably connote Willows or Cottonwoods. Pursuing this intriguing line of thought, I discovered that this was indeed so; that there were literally thousands of different trees and that many of them are vastly interesting for several different reasons. Not the least shattering disclosure was the fact that those whose names appeared with such monotonous



THE TALLEST TREE IN ENGLAND. Not a native species like the Oak or Elm but a Douglas Fir - to be seen at Powis Castle in Montgomeryshire, a county in Wales.

photo by Eric J. Hosking, London, Eng.

regularity on Forestry Reports were themselves of considerable interest in ways not pertinent to the proper discharge of government.

At least five thousand species grow in the watershed area of the Amazon River: in the Malay Peninsula some twenty-five hundred are known, though classification is incomplete. There are very large trees; trees with extremely hard wood and others with extremely soft; trees that produce astonishing fruits, lovely flowers or bark that is used for clothing; medicinal trees and poisonous trees. At various times and in various places trees have done duty as prisons and police stations, churches or stables, cafes or even orchestra pits. They loom large along the bypaths of history and along the open roads of legend and folklore. They go so far back along those bypaths and roads that the mists of time have closed in and their beginnings are faint and obscure.

These preliminary findings could only have one result - that of wanting to find out more by tracing the facts and fancies of past and present. In so doing, seeing that all journeys begin at home, it seemed reasonable first to take a look at the trees which are our constant neighbours and, of these, the first to



Comparatively rare is the sight of a tree which has attained the size of the specimen shown above (note arrow pointing to man standing at base of tree to get an idea of the size). This is a Coast Douglas Fir, now probably cut. It grew for over a thousand years and to a height of about 300 feet. in the area roughly between Healy and Shelton Lakes, some 15 miles west of the Island Highway near Parksville. Because of the uncommon size of this and adjacent trees, the writer and Mr. Kerkham made a special trip into the area June of this year when the above photo was taken.

Photo by Roger Kerkham

claim attention is, undoubtedly, our very familiar "Douglas Fir".

According to the latest figures available, i.e., those for the year 1946, "Douglas Fir" was second only to the Spruce in volume cut throughout Canada. This state of affairs obtained in the Interior of B.C. but was reversed at the Coast. Over the entire Province "Douglas Fir" headed the list while Hemlock nosed out Spruce for the runner-up position. However, it is worthy of note that the Hemlocks and Spruces grow east of the Rockies as well as west and that there are several species contributing to the cut. "Douglas Fir", on the other hand, comprises one species and one variety of that species, and does not flourish beyond the Pacific Northwest. These points are very clear evidence of its availability and popularity.

There is no doubt then, that the "Douglas Fir" is one of the most important trees in the American Northwest, a position of eminence due in very large measure to its availability, already mentioned, its frequent large size, and, thirdly, the peculiar stiffness of the wood. With regard to this last attribute, it is only applicable in contrast to other 'softwoods'.

The first notable attention paid to this forest king was accorded by the naturalist, Menzies, over one hundred and fifty years ago. In 1825, David Douglas, a Scottish botanist, under the aegis of the Royal Horticultural Society, studied the tree and classified it as something other than a Pine, a Spruce, a Hemlock or a true "Fir" with all of which it had been variously confused up to that time. Abel Carriere (1816-1896), was responsible for the generic name, "Pseudotsuga," meaning "False Hemlock", while Jean Poiret, another French taxonomist, (1755-1834), produced the first description. His classification, however, was altered to the existing one by an American, Nathaniel Britton, (1859-1934), and hence the present resounding title of our well-known "Douglas Fir":- "Pseudotsuga taxifolia (Poir.) Britt." The specific name, "taxifolia", means 'with leaves like a yew'.

Nevertheless - and despite similarities to Yews and Hemlocks - the "Douglas Fir" is very easily distinguishable from its coniferous associates when it is mature. Although it is a Family relation of the "Pines", it should never be confused with any of them since the foliage is quite dissimilar. Pine needles are longer and appear in clusters of from two to five. Rarely are they single as in the case of the "Singleleaf Pinyon Pine", the unofficial State Tree of Nevada. Hemlocks and Spruces provide respectively a thread-like stalk or a small



ABOVE: Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*) at Colwood Golf Course, with twin trunks.

BELOW: A close up of the tree shown above showing the clean division of the trunks, and the relatively large diameter of base.

photos by Roger Kerkhan



projection between the needle and the twig. The trees with leaves most closely resembling those of the "Douglas Fir" and excluding the Yews are the true "Firs" or "Balsams".

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Queen Charlotte Island Hunting Trip

by RITA M. ROGERSON



Mildred, Ron and I with our first deer.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each fall countless numbers of women are dragged off into the hills by buck-feverish husbands, and forced to sit around in some comfortless hunting camp twiddling their thumbs while waiting for hubby to bag a record head - or just ANY kind of game at all. And each year it is 'hubby' who relates, with many embellishments, the story of his trip, and his prowess. Just to be different we offer below a woman's account of a hunting trip. Perhaps not strangely, the excitement of the 'kill' is missing - but the woman's viewpoint will always be different to man's.

A few years ago, Mildred and Ron, a couple we were very fond of, talked my husband and me into a hunting trip on the Queen Charlotte Islands. It was my first hunting trip, and since I couldn't shoot the broad side of a barn, I just went along as an observer.

We travelled to the Islands from Prince Rupert on the 'Camosun', a small coast steamer that travels between Vancouver, Prince Rupert and the Islands. Although the crossing was a bit choppy we enjoyed the trip. The first port of call was Massett, on the Islands. At the next stop, Port Clements, we disembarked. Then we rode by taxi car, twelve or fourteen miles to Tlell, where we made our headquarters.

Our camp was very comfortable. Along with the camp went an elderly Frenchman, Albert, who was a fund of information, a great fiddler and the source of a never ending flow of vegetables that found their way to our table. He had his own quarters, but spent a great part of each day with us.

We were close to the Pacific, and from our camp, we could hear the breakers roar. The scenery was pastoral, peaceful and beautiful. Our camp faced a river where lurked may trout. The only thing we lacked was fresh drinking water, as the rivers and streams were all salty. We drank rain water.

The day after our arrival we went hunting with the men. We walked about six miles along the road in the late fall sunshine. We took our time. There were many does grazing by the roadside, as tame as could be. They were protected by the game regulations and seemed to know it. I was loudly exclaiming

over the beauty of the shalal leaves, when a startled buck leaped out from the side of the road. The men shot it, and there and then they turned into earnest hunters. After they cut the deer's throat, they removed it's intestines and hung it in a tree. The deer on the Queen Charlotte Islands are a smaller type than those on the B.C. mainland. They are beautiful, graceful animals.

That evening the men cleaned and oiled their guns, while Mildred and I cooked supper. For supper we had deer liver, and it wasn't bad. The men, stimulated by their first deer, decided to give hunting some serious application. They felt they would do much better without the company of chattering women. So that night they broke the sad news to us that in future they hunted alone. They also had ideas of tracking the unsuspecting deer noiselessly through the bush. They felt that we women would thrash around like a herd of elephants. I wonder where they ever got such ideas about us light-footed members of the human race!

The next morning at six o'clock, the men, taking a lunch, left to hunt for the day. Mildred and I were left to our own devices. We tidied up the camp and made two pies and a cake. Then we went for a walk, and Mildred potted at a few ducks with her gun. Grouse were plentiful and very tame. They sat by the side of the road, just waiting to be shot. Unfortunately open season was over, so after a struggle with her conscience, Mildred put her gun away. We both preferred grouse above any other wild meat, so we walked home thinking of ways and means to legalize shooting those wild fowl. We ended by admitting that it was a good law because it conserved the grouse.

When we reached the camp the men were already there, looking very happy.

"How did you make out?" Mildred asked.

Jum said, "We were lucky, we got two. Ron got one right away, a two year old buck by the side of the road. The other one, Ron and I trailed through the bush for about two hours. Then I finally got him. The country is fairly rough. I'm hungry, when do we eat?"

We'd left a roast of venison cooking in the oven, while we were out walking. So with Albert's vegetables and the pies, we had a very fine meal. With hot-cakes for breakfast, free vegetables and free meat; our cost of living was at an all-time low.

The next day while our men were again 'pursuing the deer', we had a visitor; one of the bachelors called in to offer us a deer that he had just shot, and we readily accepted it. The next thing we knew, he wheeled it into the yard on a wheelbarrow. We helped him hang it up over the back door.

That night when the men returned, we said, "Well, how did you do today?"

"We didn't do so well today, in fact we were skunked." Ron answered.

"In other words you didn't get a thing," said Mildred. "Lucky for you we were hunting around home here. We got one buck today, a two year old."

"Ho,ho," sneered Ron, "Now I'll tell one."

"We have so a buck hanging at the back of the house," I said emphatically.

They both looked so doubtful, Mildred and I had to laugh. "Come and see," I said.

"Well what do you know, they really got one," said Ron.

"How come?" said Jim.

"Mildred got it," I said.

"Good for Mildred, that's good shooting." Our husbands were very impressed. Ron suddenly said to Jim, "Here, help me lift it down, I want to see the bullet hole."

They lifted the deer to the ground, and on examining the wound, Ron said, "You didn't shoot this Mildred. This deer was killed with a large rifle. Oh, these women! You can't trust them out of your sight. Now just where did you get this deer?"

I said, "We never said Mildred shot it, we just said she GOT it!"

We felt by that time that we'd teased them enough, so we told them about the very kind bachelor. They were quite impressed with the deer and decided to give us a few shooting lessons, just in case a deer crossed our paths when a gun was at hand. Mildred shot fairly well, but as it was the first time I'd ever had a big gun in my hands, the gun kicked and somehow both gun and I landed on the ground.

"You aren't supposed to throw the gun on the ground, you might get mud in the barrel," they said, more concerned about the gun than me.

When they thought about all the mud that might be in the barrel of that gun, the shooting lessons were cancelled and it was gun cleaning time.



Ron and Jim - all set to get a dozen ducks - they came back with one.

The following day, Mildred and I had made plans to visit a couple who were friends of Albert's. As it was raining, the men decided to join us. We walked to their farm along the sand dunes by the ocean. It was very pleasant walking in the warm light rain. The men were loaded with guns just in case a deer might stray in their path. When we arrived at the farm, we were met by a deluge of cats. They flew into trees and out buildings. I had never seen so many cats at one time. The people were very kind and liked cats, so the cats seemed to take advantage of the fact and multiplied with a vengeance. They kept goats, just to supply the cats with milk. Their land was a haven for pheasants. I saw seven or eight pheasants the short time we were there, however they were very wild and passed us like comets, that was probably due to the influence of the cats. The people themselves were vegetarians, in this country so rich in game, so all birds and animals were more or less protected when on their land.

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AN INDIAN MARRIAGE IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE YUKON TERRITORY

by W.D. MacBRIDE

Courtship and marriage in the early days of the Yukon Territory were very different institutions from the present day ideas of the young braves and squaws who do most of their courting in the moving picture shows, and demand the services of a clergyman at their wedding. From the standpoint of legality, the Canadian Government has always recognized the Indian marriage as perfectly binding. However, it is a question whether married life was any happier before the advent of the white man or not.

When the young brave of the early days saw the girl of his choice, he didn't go to call on her. He didn't even speak to her. For the peace of mind of his neighbors it would have been better if he had. But, perched on a log or a stump outside her wigwam, he would sing a doleful love song hour after hour. To the unaccustomed ear the tune sounded like a cross between the wail of a husky and an asthmatic wheeze. There was only one verse, a literal translation being:

I am pitiful,
You come to me.
If you do come, to me,
It will be very good.

After hours of this, if he was not shot at in the meantime, he left for his own wigwam. If the girl accepted his suit, she placed a pair of finely-worked moccasins on the stump or log where he had been crooning. When he spied them, he would o them, he would pick them up and take them to his wigwam. That signified their engagement, provided there were no parental objections. The parents not only had the final say in the matter, but they made all arrangements for the wedding.

Even after the engagement was sealed, the young brave did not speak to his fiance, nor did she ever address him. Whenever they met, she would cover her face with her hands or with a piece of moosehide.

When the parents had set the date for the

marriage, they moved their wigwams side by side. Preparations were made for a feast of caribou and tea. At weddings after the coming of the first white men tobacco also was served, as smoking was indulged in by young and old.

As the hour approached for the ceremony, the bridegroom and his parents entered one of the wigwams, and sat down at one side of the fire which was built in the centre. The bride and her parents then entered, followed by all her relatives, and they sat on the opposite side. Meat was eaten, not a word being spoken. Afterwards tea was given to each one present. Then pipes were lighted, and everybody smoked in silence.

In due time the father of the groom arose and gave a long talk, extolling the virtues of his boy. As a hunter and trapper, he could not be excelled. He was as handsome as Adonis and he had the grace of Apollo. His bravery was unquestioned. Surely the bride was fortunate to have secured such a husband.

When he had finished, the bride's father arose and gave a glowing account of his daughter. No girl in all the world was half as beautiful. In the art of tanning hides, she had no superior; and in fashioning garments she was without doubt the last word. The groom had made no mistake in choosing her.

Meanwhile the bride had been sitting with her hair plaited in braids and thrown over her face. After the speeches were finished the groom reached forward and grasping the braids, hauled her across the fire to his side. If during the preliminaries, however, she suddenly changed her mind about marrying him, a struggle ensued, during which her parents beat his hands with sticks, and the match was off. If she raised no objection she, allowed herself to be hauled across the fire, and she sat down beside the groom. His parents then threw a blanket over the couple.

This completed the marriage ceremony.



"May I have the hand of your daughter, Sir?"

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"Indian Fingers"

(What's In a Name)

by NELLIE R. CAMPBELL

The 'Indian Fingers' - that is what the people of Telkwa called them. No doubt thousands of people have travelled along the highway that leads west from Telkwa and never even noticed them. It was just by chance that Bert glanced up that day as we were returning to our summer camp on the bank of the Bulkley River with a fresh supply of groceries.

The steep wooded slope on our right ended abruptly in a clay bank, and there they stood, carved out of the clay by hundreds of years of wind and rain. The face of the cliff wore deep ridges like giant fingers and a tall column of clay formed the thumb. Our one desire was to climb to the top of the ridge for a closer view, so the following morning we started out. A cow path that led upward seemed quite promising, but at the base of the cliff it abruptly turned and took a downward trend. The clay bank above was wet and slippery from recent rains, and bedded deep in the soft earth was a huge bear track. The animal had apparently met with no difficulty in scaling the sheer cliff, but it seemed rather hazardous for us to attempt to follow in his footsteps, so, rather reluctantly, we returned to camp.

The next morning we started out again, this time armed with our camera and a long length of rope. Before long we discovered an old wagon road, overgrown with grass and weeds. It apparently led to the top of the cliff. Bert argued that it would be much easier for us to go down the almost perpendicular bank than to climb it. We followed the trail until we came to an open hay meadow on top, and we could see the Indian Fingers just below us. Bert looked about for a safe point of anchorage. The posts of the old barbed wire fence that ran along the top of the cliff were rotten and none too safe, so the rope was doubled around the base of a small poplar tree growing near the top of the cliff. Bert made his way down the steep bank, clinging to the rope with one hand and the camera with the other. It was not hard for me to follow. Even then, we were not on a level with these



'Indian Fingers' - on Highway No. 16, between Telkwa and Smithers.

odd clay formations, so, pulling the rope down, we again doubled it around a young sapling and continued downward.

Once on a level with the 'Fingers', it did not take long to get our pictures. By means of the rope we were able to work our way around the face of the cliff to the opposite side and take a picture from that angle. We saw the narrow cow trail just below us and decided it would be much simpler to continue downward than try to retrace our steps. The bear tracks were still there, but the hot morning sun had hardened the clay and our heels fitted nicely into the deep imprints of the huge paws as we made our way downward to the cowpath below.

Back at camp we talked of our morning adventure as Bert brewed coffee and I fried salmon over the open camp fire - salmon which we had caught the evening before in the river in front of camp. The 'Indian Fingers', - that was what people called them - DID resemble fingers, when viewed from the highway far below, but a close view of the tall clay column imbedded with small stones, standing erect near the top of the steep clay bank made me feel that 'Nature's Totem Pole' was a far better name.

Recently a friend returned from a trip over this highway. "Did you notice the queer clay

formations at the top of the high bank just west of Telkwa?" I asked.

"Oh, you mean the Hoo-Doos," he replied.

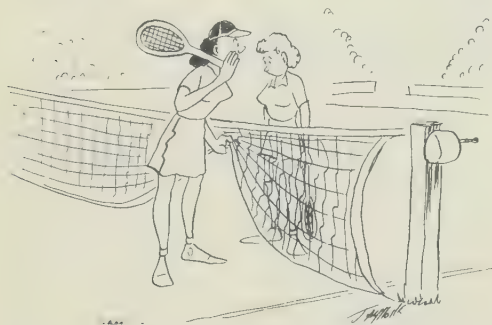
"Hoo-Doos?" I said. "Why, most people around Telkwa call them 'Indian Fingers.'"

"Indian Fingers, bah. They're Hoo-Doos, that's what they are."

Indian Fingers, Nature's Totem Pole, Hoo-Doos - call them what you will - it has taken centuries of wind and rain to carve them in the face of the cliff. After all, other districts probably have similar formations which they call by still a different name - and, what's in a name.



A close-up showing peculiar cap on top of 'Finger'.



'Did you notice the cheap material? Seventy cents a yard at Fraser's.'

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Pacific Petroleum's Drill Rig Tower
near Mile 26, Alaska Highway



*This and Cover Photo
by Bilvic Studios
Dawson Creek, B.C.*

THE DRILL RIG shown above is Pacific Petroleum's new \$250,000 complete mobile unit, currently probing for oil (or gas) half way between Dawson Creek and Fort St. John in B.C.'s Peace River Block.

The top half of the 96 ft. tower telescopes into the bottom half, which in turn is hinged to fold forward over the various pumps and power units on the main body of the machine.

The present Peace River drilling campaign, in which 1,150,000 acres will be thoroughly explored, is closely affiliated with the Athabaska to Vancouver gas pipeline project of the Westcoast Transmission Co., which is currently endeavouring to secure an Alberta Gov't. export permit.

Imperial Oil Company's new 300 barrel per day well, recently brought in just 30 miles south of Peace River (town) Alberta, 125 miles due east of the above drill site, and over 400 miles northwest of Edmonton, indicates a north-westerly extension of the rich Alberta oil formations - quite possibly into B.C.

Drilling at Mile 26 is now below the 3,000 ft. level. With six natural gas wells brought in just 20 miles to the east, expectations are high - but win or lose - the rig will be moved to Bear Flats, 10 miles west of Fort St. John, to probe the westerly extension of the geologically favourable area.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE HUNTING TRIP

Continued from page 19

Another day, the men took us hunting geese. There were some Canada geese on the tide flats, and also a flock of Crow geese, which make their home on the Islands the whole year round. We were ready to settle for anything edible in the line of waterfowl. We wandered over meadows and along the tide-flats. Geese are wiley birds, and anyone who bags a goose really deserves it. The men tried every trick they knew except being in a blind at six in the morning, and we felt really proud when they finally bagged a Canada Goose and a Crow Goose.

Then we tried for mallards. We lay behind logs. We divided our party and while the hunters lay in ambush, Mildred and I would cross over to where the ducks were, and then the ducks would cross over to the other side, flying high. Jim bagged only one, and I could see that duck and goose hunting required a great deal of strategy.

We finished off the hunting trip by going to a dance at Skidegate. The people who invited us had a covered truck in which to take us the thirty-odd miles to the dance. The men, who when home, liked dancing, objected very strongly about going to a dance when on a hunting trip. They said it just wasn't done - a poker game they could see - but not a dance. However, we made them see. It was rather fun. As we drove along we picked up settlers here and there and everyone joined in a singsong. At the dance the band was made up of Haida Indians from the village. One very special piece they played was the Haida Love Song. The boys admitted, but not for some time, that they'd had a good time also.

The following day, the men had a truck pick up the deer from the various trees in which they were cached. They had their quota and were well satisfied. At Port Clements, a great deal of game was being loaded aboard the steamer.

As soon as we were home the men started butchering. We had a lot of fun giving portions to such friends as were fond of wild meat, and in telling and re-telling how we'd bagged this or that deer, though I noticed the men were inclined to enlarge more than a little on the difficulties attending each successful shot - where the deer stood fifty yards away - they had it a hundred yards and so on, but men are like that....

Both Ron and Jim agreed that it was an ideal place to hunt - because there ARE deer there, and plenty of them.

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Criticism, though often necessary and helpful, is generally common-place. Correction of an error is infinitely more important, especially when such is benevolent to humanity. Before submitting such I wish to forewarn certain individuals who read this, and who control the yoke, that they must be prepared to accept a drastic remedy which will nullify the disadvantages under which Britain labours. Which is best? - to slumber on in the false security which is merely the lull caused by accumulated wealth - or, in dotage, to refuse responsibility and, coward like, leave the solving to a later generation? - or will you cheer up and, at long last consider your responsibility to those who you "perhaps innocently and unawaredly" despoil?

The funded debt in its enormity, is the dominant factor that will, in the long run cause complete ruination to British interests. From one war to another this debt has increased, so that it has become a destructive menace. The debt should be paid in full, liquidated, shilling for shilling. Not by confiscation or repudiation but by a simple process - the substitution of one form of public liability for another. The liability will remain exactly the same but all taxation caused by such liability will no longer be necessary. No more interest payments for the liability of the funded debt would be substituted under this plan, by the issuance of debt free money, which is the other form of liability. - Such debt free money for one purpose only, the redemption of bonds. Security presently applicable to the funded debt is automatically shifted and will keep the debt free, money at par. To avoid any possibility of inflation, this plan should proceed only at a rate whereby the investment market could conveniently absorb the funds.

Other precautions and simple formula would be necessary. The principia would be, substitution of one form of investment of the same parity, provided to replace Government bonds and adequate protection to investors. The latter accomplished by setting up inspection Boards whose duty would be to examine into, classify and approve securities of any nature whatsoever

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before permit would be given for their disposal.

In order to provide securities of the same analogous worth as the present Government bonds, a National sinking fund would be built up through special taxation which would be additional to that which is provided by Corporations and individuals. In case of bankruptcy of any concern, the National sinking fund would be available and the investor fully protected. The inspection Boards, under Democracy being the servants of the people, Society should thus be held responsible for its own actions in this respect. In such manner the British people as a whole would stand solid behind their own thrift and industry and protect each other from any adverse conditions that might arise.

The status of present day currency is farcical. A very small percentage of gold represents currency in circulation. It would be a very small step further to issue debt free money to offset the National debt, public liability remaining exactly the same as regards principle, but liability as regards interest eradicated, hence less taxation. With a Nation free of debt, such debt free money would be in a stronger position than the present Government bonds. The liability which such debt free money would represent could be offset by the gradual replacement of such currency with gold and silver coins, - real money - more sanitary and of intrinsic value.

Enslavement of the people through public debt is the basic cause of Socialism and Communism which seems to be inexorable in its growing acceptability the world over. Such doctrines lead to complete State control. Ultimately the refashioning of the curriculum of all Universities and schools, so that brains of the future generations can be harnessed and and placed at the command of the State. An odious facet of Communism and Socialism. Finis to freedom and initiative to one and all. Dictatorship in full control. The individual a mere automan. State control should be limited to welfare, hospitalization, unemployment. Mankind must have some room left in which to enjoy freedom and the exercise and development of initiative. Nature demands just that.


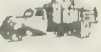
Under such a plan, domestic purchasing power is increased - the Capital - frozen assets - thus freed, would be needed for expansion of British interests at home and abroad, and be set to work for humanity. Reduced production costs. The export problem solved.

Why tolerate a continuance of high living costs and food shortages; or to carry on in despair and fruitless effort? Embrace ment of such a plan for the liquidation of the National Debt not only solves such problems but

Concluded on page 32

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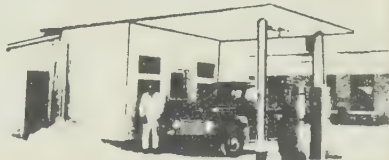
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CARIBOO FALL FAIR

by ARTHUR G. DOWNS

When Autumn leaves fall and clear white frosts lay heavily on the ground, farm families start preparing for the community fall fair. With 30% of the gainfully occupied males employed in Agriculture and its value to B.C. in 1948 approximately \$135,000,000.00, these fairs assume an added significance.

The village of Quesnel, at the northern end of the rich Cariboo, recently held its fall fair. Apart from Edgar Bergan and the crowning of Miss B.C., it was a miniature of the P.N.E., with hobby show, ladies handicraft exhibits, entrees from many Junior Farm Clubs, a Midway, and a gala dance at the conclusion.

Those who think of the interior as a frigid zone, fit only for cattle and hardy prospectors would have done well to see the prize tomatoes, golden red crab-apples, juicy plums, and district-growm McIntosh apples. And the cut flower exhibits needed not to bow before their coastal counterparts. Beautiful displays of multi-coloured Dahlias, Gladiolus and roses were outstanding.

Among the vegetable exhibits, the potato ruled supreme, for during the last few years registered seed potato growing has become a very important industry in the Quesnel area. Potatoes from this area have taken many prizes at the Vancouver Fall Fair and this year two Quesnel boys won top honours at P.N.E. in the potato judging competition. There are many potato clubs formed by farmers yet in school, and inter-club competition is keen. Although the members might be behind in their school homework, they know all about spuds, using disease signifying tongue-twisters to the envy of any Latin teacher, and speaking of the organic contents of the soil in a manner that would flabbergast their grandfathers - and even some fathers - who look upon dirt, as dirt, nothing more.

Three exhibits which attracted much attention and comment were those relative to Mining, Forestry, and Tourist Information. Although mining has been established in the Cariboo for over ninety years, the lumbering and tourist industry are comparative newcomers. They mark the Cariboo's growing change from a predominantly mining and agricultural centre to a more diversified area, as shown by the modernizing of the Cariboo Highway, extension

of the P.G.E., and the proposed Hydro project.

One of the most interesting items of the Tourist Information exhibit was a browned first edition of the "Cariboo Observer" published on Saturday 29, 1908. It must have recalled old memories and forgotten names to the few old-timers remaining in the district. An interesting feature of the paper was an advertisement stating that "our hotel contains the best livery stable in town."

The Forestry Exhibit featured a cross-section of a district fir that was a seedling in the year 1589. It was over two hundred years old before Alexander McKenzie passed Quesnel on his voyage to the Pacific, and nearly three hundred years old before the first schoolteacher arrived in Quesnel.

Adding emphasis to that oft heard remark about "B.C.'s vast undeveloped resources" was a lump of black and shiny, very high grade coal shown in the mining exhibit. The coal came from the Bowron River, about 40 miles north of the famous mining town of Barkerville, and according to those who have seen the source, is present in large quantities. A hand rocker, staking pegs, and an old pair of gold scales attracted a great deal of attention, from both weather-beaten prospectors and downy-faced youths.

While these exhibits were politely looked at by the ladies, their greatest interest was with the home cooking, canning, and baking entrees. Here were featured pies and cakes that looked exactly like those pictured in cook-books; samples of canned fruits that would reform a batchelor, and samples of fancy work that proved the machine age hasn't completely surpassed the home craftsman.

All in all the Fair was a huge success, and officials are already planning to "Do it up bigger and better next year."



"Sorry bud, we're full up!"



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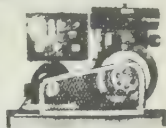
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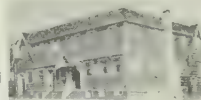


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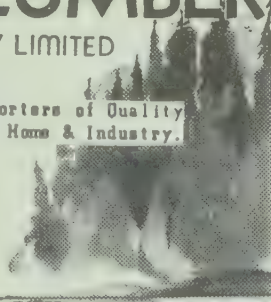
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Quesnel Acquires LORDMAYOR



To the

Lordmayor of

Quesnel

British Columbia,

Amongst the mail received recently at the Quesnel Municipal Office was the unusual envelope reproduced above. Village Clerk, Bert Mills, hesitated only momentarily upon reading to whom it was addressed, before handing it over to the eldest of Quesnel's three village commissioners, H.J. (Jack) Gardner, who for fifty years has been a resident and booster of the town and district, and who is recognized as one of the 'fathers' of the town.

With a twinkle in his eye Commissioner Gardner opened the letter and read...

To the

Lordmayor of Quesnel

Excuse me please, that I take some of your precious time. I am German girl of twenty and like foreign languages very much, most of all the English language.

Therefore I would like very much to correspond with somebody of your town. Would it make many troubles for you to find out someone who is willing to correspond with German girl?

I would be very happy if some day I would receive letter from Amerika.

I say you many thanks already now.

Affectionately

Rosnvitha Bernard

Leipzig N 22 German

Gottschallstrafse 13 - 111 L
russ zone

The village of Quesnel is indeed very proud that it now has a 'Lordmayor', who in turn feels that Fraulien Bernard might gain a great number of correspondents, thereby promoting friendlier international relations, if her letter were published in these columns.

Nevertheless, we feel, because of the unique closing phraseology, that Quesnel residents who wish to retain their present 'Lordmayor', should be on hand when Mr. Gardner buys his ticket to 'go south' this winter (on doctor's orders) just to make sure that his destination is not - Leipzig.

Postmaster Also 'Got His Man'

It is not only the R.C.M.P. who 'always get their man'. A letter was addressed to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, as follows:-

POSTMASTER: Will you please give this letter to this man "Bill". I can't think of his name.

The return address showed the sender to be Otto Berg, one time photographer in Whitehorse and now a resident of Grandview, Missouri. On the front of the envelope was pasted a photograph.

The postmaster eventually 'got his man', a district resident, Bill Morris. The only reason that Mr. Morris could give of Mr. Berg's forgetfulness, is that Mr. Berg was married not long ago....

-The Whitehorse Star



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EDITORIAL

Continued from page 27

is right in its moral concept.

It is surprising, and, to say the least, most disturbing, to realize that those who possess foresight and are capable of managing their own household affairs, fail to respond to the inner call of conscience, when it comes to solvency in National affairs.

ADDENDUM:

It should be realized that this plan for the eradication of public debt and reduction of taxation can be made applicable to Canada and other countries.

G.G.G.

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A LAUGH or TWO



SLAV LOGIC

Two bearded Polish merchants met at the Warsaw station. "Where are you bound for?" asked the first.

"Minsk." was the answer.

"Ah ha!" snorted the other. "You don't fool me for a second. You tell me Minsk so I should think you are going to Pinsk. All the time I know perfectly well you're going to Minsk!"

"My, my," remarked a husband, looking up from his book on nature lore, "the wonders of nature make one realize how low and insignificant man is."

"Phooey," snapped the wife over her mending basket. "I don't have to read books to know that."

1st Highway Patrolman: "Did you get that fellow's number?"

2nd H.P.: "No. He was going too fast."

1st G

1st H.P.: "Well, that girl with him was a beauty."

2nd H.P.: "Yeah, I'll say!"

"This is the Duke of Whoopingham's estate," said the guide from Cook's, and added sotto voce, "One of our great landed proprietors, ya'know."

A young lady from Newark expressed sudden interest. "Who landed him?" she inquired.

"Now Willie," coaxed Mama, "be a good boy and say 'Ah-h-h-', so the nasty doctor can get his finger out of your mouth."

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"Uncle Joe," asked a twelve-year-old girl,
"how do wars start?"

"Well," replied the uncle, "suppose Canada
and the United States got into a quarrel, and..."

"That's preposterous," interrupted the girl's
father, "Canada and the United States have
always lived peaceably..."

"I know," shouted Uncle Joe, "but I'm
merely posing a hypothetical situation..."

"But you give the child the wrong impression,
and don't raise your voice at me in that tone..."


"I'll raise my voice if I like," screamed
Uncle Joe, "and if you weren't so dumb..."

"Never mind, Uncle Joe," the girl managed
to put in, "I think I know how wars start."

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GLIMPSE IN THE FOREST

Continued from page 17

The cones, however, are utterly different. Those of "Pseudotsuga" are pendent, liable to appear anywhere on the tree, small and with trilobed, exserted bracts and persistent scales. The cones of the "Balsams", on the other hand are upright, confined to the upper branches, large, have no bracts and deciduous scales. Likewise, the bark of a mature "Balsam" is fairly smooth, usually blistered and gray in colour, while that of the "Douglas Fir" is thick, fissured, subereous, and usually darker in colour. Incidentally, subereous bark is a feature of the "Cork Bark Fir" of Arizona, a "Balsam" but the colour is very different. The foliages are much alike but the leaves of the true "Firs" are more distinctly arranged in two ranks than those of the "Douglas Firs". In addition, the two light coloured bands - stomatal bands - are practically always visible on the underside of a "Balsam" needle, which same, though present in "Douglas Fir", are not conspicuous.

By way of generic relations the "Douglas Fir" has the "Bigcone Spruce", (P. macrocarpa), of Lower California, the "Japanese Douglas Fir", (P. japonica), the "Chinese Douglas Fir", (P. sinensia) and two further and rather abstruse oriental species, "P. forrestii" and "P. wilsoniana", attributed to Formosa and possibly synonymous. The "Common Douglas Fir" is credited with about eleven varieties including Shortbract, Blue, Columnar, Compact, Dwarf, Frets, Globe, Grey, Green, Weeping, and Silver-leaf. The man who acquired a sudden fortune probably did not discover he had quite as many relations as this.

The range of the "Common Douglas Fir" is extensive. It reaches south into Mexico, as far east as Oklahoma, west to the Pacific Coast and north into Central B.C. It is estimated to form 60% of the standing timber in western forests. An overall assessment for the U.S.A. in 1945 showed a volume of 493,318,000,000 board feet. The survey of 1937 for B.C. revealed 49,268,000,000 board feet, a total exceeded slightly by both Spruces and Hemlocks. The Canadian cut rose to a record of 1,652,193,000 feet in 1947, while the average annual cut in the U.S.A. between 1933 and 1942 is given as a little more than six billion feet. No figures on the present stand are available with cut and loss from fire, disease or infestation opposed to reserve plus increment. The Canadian pattern shows a margin for depletion over increment, and this no doubt holds good for the "Douglas Fir".

"Douglas Fir" flourishes in England. It was introduced presumably about 1856, primarily

for ornamental purposes. Its popularity waxed and waned. A high point was reached during the years from 1865 to 1872 when it became distinctly fashionable to plant "Douglas Firs". A particularly magnificent avenue was established at Muthly Castle in Perthshire, Scotland. Many outstanding specimens were sacrificed during the war. Around 1913, "Douglas Fir" enthusiasm was somewhat chilled by a report from the British tree expert, Elwes, but in 1944, the economic value of the tree was again demonstrated. At that time it was shown to have outstripped such species as "Corsican" and "Scots Pine" and plantation thinnings were valuable enough to defray much of the total original cost. Today it may be said to be well established as a plantation tree as well as an ornamental. A specimen at Powis Castle in Montgomeryshire is considered to have outgrown all the natives, such as Larches and Silver Firs, and, with a stature of one hundred and seventy-five feet, to be the tallest tree in Britain. There is a nice specimen at the Melbourne Botanical Gardens in Australia and the species is being tried out for reforestation in Argentina.

In its native countries the "Douglas Fir" is second only in size to the "Redwoods" and "Bigtrees" of California. An individual at Little Rock in the State of Washington is three hundred and thirty feet high; another in the same state and at Mineral, stood three hundred and eighty five feet. This was the tallest specimen in the U.S.A. and apparently exceeded by about twenty feet the present champion, a "Redwood" on North Dyerville Flat in Humboldt county, California. The famous "Douglas Fir" of Seymour Valley, close by North Vancouver, B.C., was attributed a height of four hundred and seventeen feet, but it too, fell to the rapacity of men who were unable to recognize a national asset when they saw it. This choice sample of blind,



Butt log of the mammoth Douglas Fir of Seymour Valley. This is a reprint of a very old photo taken in 1895, rumoured to have been first reproduced in South Africa. (reprint by Schwarze, Naniamo)

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imbecile greed and destruction occurred in 1895. The American Forestry Association in a Report dated November 1st, 1946, recognized a "Douglas Fir" in Olympic National Park as the tallest of its kind, with a height of two hundred and twenty-one feet. There are probably higher specimens unreported.

From the utilization standpoint, Douglas Fir" is indubitably dimorphous. The "Coas variety provides timber that is harder, heavier and generally stronger than that obtained from the "Interior" tree, which is known as the "Blue Douglas Fir". There is, for example, about four pounds difference in weight per cubic foot at 12% moisture content. Comparing "Douglas Fir" with twenty-two other good softwoods we find that it is fourth in weight at 12% moisture content; is first in bending strength; has the highest "modulus of elasticity" or stiffness; is second in the capacity for absorbing energy or toughness; is second in the ability to resist suddenly applied loads or to withstand shock; is second in compressive strength which is essential in props or short columns; is fourth in resistance to indentation on side grain, and fifth on end grain - a measure of hardness - is fourth in shearing strength which is important in large dimension timbers and, finally, seventh in cleavage strength or resistance to splitting either radically or tangentially, a valuable asset where the wood has to be nailed or bolted.

Probably the closest rival of the "Douglas Fir" in its own class is the "Slash" or "Pitch Pine" which has a range extending through the South-eastern United States, part of the West Indies and some countries in Central America. Although "Slash Pine" is now outstanding as the leader among the "Southern Pines", ("Loblolly", "Longleaf", "Shortleaf," etc) in the production of turpentine, rosin and so forth, should the "Douglas Fir" supply disappear and replacement be inadequate, it could easily and quickly assume its place.

So much presently, then, about the "Douglas Fir". Doubtless it will be mentioned later on because, being so familiar, it is useful as a standard of comparison. Next month, however, seeing that December is so close upon us, let us forsake botanical species for a spell and a word or two on that immeasurably important indoor variety, namely, the "Christmas Tree."



McRae Hotel

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Continued from page 14

maternity and other cases are being 'turned out' far in advance of what was considered the minimum recuperative period of good medical practise only a few short years ago - all to make room for an ever-increasing line-up of patients.

Public feeling might be summarized as being, "if the government has contracted to pay all hospital bills whenever hospitalization is necessary, it must also see to it that the hospitalization services are AVAILABLE when necessary." This it has failed to do.

Many communities, particularly in our far-flung northern regions, which receive less attention than the vote-heavy southern centres, are struggling along as best they can, patiently waiting for the government to undertake a program indicating that it is ready to shoulder the responsibility of providing adequate facilities to back up its compulsory plan.

In the meantime patients must be properly accommodated. The citizens in and around Pouce Coupe, despite the fact that they felt it was now more the government's responsibility than their own, decided that sickness and accident would not wait for parliamentary action, and that they would go ahead and build a hospital under the old pre-Hospital Insurance Plan, of matching dollar for dollar with the Government.

In very short order they raised \$30,000, by public donation. The B.C. Government backed this with another \$30,000. An architect was brought in from Vancouver by the Hospital Board, and requested to draw plans for a hospital similar to a small but modern hospital recently completed at a cost of \$60,000 not far across the border in Alberta.

The architect returned to Vancouver and set to work, periodically submitting his plans to the Health Department officials at Victoria for approval. There were many changes made before final approval was given. When the Hospital Board at Pouce Coupe finally received the plans it was found that the plans were for an entirely different building than that which they had planned to build - a much larger building - far more costly to build. In fact it was going to cost double the \$60,000 available to them for the building. Modifications of the plan were requested, but apparently the plans were minimum Government requirements. There could be no change.

Some members of the Hospital Board suggested abandoning the idea, as it would be impossible to raise another \$30,000 by public subscription.

Concluded on page 40

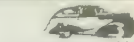
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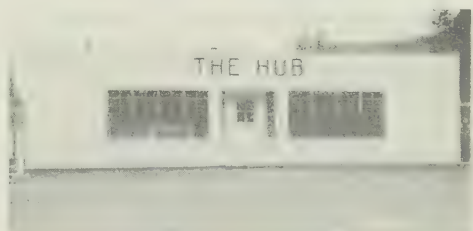
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the land at the ends of the existing network of country roads. But there is more land - and GOOD land - hundreds of square miles of it, beyond the ends of existing roads - ten, twenty and thirty miles beyond, and roads will be built as fast as newcomers show an inclination to settle there.

The Peace River Block is famous for its grain crops, so much so, that it is not generally known that its livestock production exceeds that of almost any other area in B.C. of similar size. One southern Alberta rancher wrote to a Trade Board official inquiring about range-land. The cattle population in his district was too dense, he stated, which resulted in perpetual squabbles over grazing rights. He wanted to bring 500 head of cattle up to the 'Peace', if there was room. His correspondent referred him to the area northeast of Clayhurst, where as far as the eye could see - twenty or thirty miles - there was the finest type of grazing land, crossed by streams and dotted by several lakes, and not a road, farm or any habitation to be seen in the whole expanse.....

Yes, there's land in the Peace, good land, and lots of it. And people are beginning to wake up to to that fact. It is curious to note however, that in speaking with scores of people including the real estate agents selling the land to new settlers, not one of them could give a good reason, or any reason, as to why the great influx of new settlers took place THIS year. Why not last year, or the year before? Why not next year, or the year after next? No-one seemed to know. "It must be the good crops we've had this year"

said C.C. Brooks, real estate agent at Fort St. John who has sold about 50 sections at Upper Pine (river). But that couldn't be, for the influx had started early in the spring, long before it could be predicted that there would be a bumper crop.

Others shrugged and said, "They must've heard about this country from someone, maybe relatives or friends up here." But people here have been extolling the wonders of the land, in



letters written to friends and relatives, for the past thirty years and it brought no great rush.

No-one can be found who claims the slightest credit for starting the present rush. Said T. (Tommy) Hargraeves, real estate agent at Fort St. John, who came into the district thirty years ago, and who has been busy all summer in get-newcomers settled in the Clayhurst area, "I honestly don't know. I've been trying for thirty years to bring about something like this, and spent thousands of dollars trying. Why, only two years ago I spent five hundred dollars on an idea to advertise this truly wonderful agricultural land but.....No. I'd LIKE to say I had a hand in starting the present land boom, but I didn't. All I know is that they're coming so thick and fast that I've hired a good farmer, who knows land to a 'T', to scout out good land in advance, so that newcomers can get settled quickly, and that keeps me too busy to wonder how it all started.

Another Fort St. John agent, H.A. Mason, replied to my query with, "I'll be darned if I know how it started, but the new settlers tell me that next year even more will come, because they've written to their friends and relatives, and they're coming up too - being fed up with poor crops and drought.

Regardless of what started the influx, which may forever remain a mystery, the reason for coming is obvious - excellent crops - without a failure in thirty years. This year's harvest from the B.C. section of the Peace River Block is expected to reach 5,000,000 bushels, and create a record for the number of acres under cultivation.



"Say, ain't it about time this kid learned to walk?"

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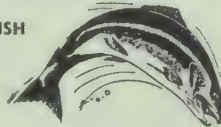


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Continued from page 37

But instead, application was made to the Federal Government for assistance, and the Hospital Board was assured that the Federal Government would give a grant of one dollar for every five that went into the building. They went ahead.

The building is a modern one and a half storey structure with full basement, measuring 204 ft. by 40 ft. and finished in white stucco. In order to provide maximum room in the upper floors, all service rooms, such as laundry, kitchen, and even the offices, are located in the basement. The plan calls for special low-inclined ramps connecting all floors so that patients may be moved with ease to any part of the building, also a special maternity delivery and operating room separate from the main operating room. When completed, its 36 beds will provide ample accommodation for years to come.

In the meantime the \$60,000 has been spent and work is at a standstill at the stage shown in accompanying photo, with all inside finishing and equipping yet to be done. According to Federal Government assurances, \$12,000 should be forthcoming at this time with which to carry on the work, but for some unknown reason the grant has not materialized. Another effort on the part of the Hospital Board to raise additional funds by public subscription, was met by a justifiable wave of protest. The public had not only dug into their pockets for \$30,000, but each and every one of them had paid up to \$30 for the second consecutive year on the Hospital Insurance Plan. Their contribution to date had amounted to far more than the Government's. And now the project is at a standstill, requiring approximately \$40,000 to complete the building, plus \$25,000 for equipment.

The problem now confronting the Pouce Coupe Hospital Board is similar to the problem confronting almost every community in B.C. - how to improve and enlarge hospital facilities without resorting to endless public subscription. The situation, as it is at present, cannot go on endlessly. Since the essential problem is one of establishing responsibility - it is high time there was a re-shuffling of the cards, to decide WHO should be held most responsible for hospital accommodation. Previous to our Government inaugurating the compulsory Hospital Insurance program, whereby it socialistically enfolded the population of B.C. in its arms and guaranteed freedom from hospitalization worries, it was recognized as a joint responsibility, and accepted as such. Today the responsibility rests squarely with the Government.





Barkerville today, note how timber has grown on once denuded slopes to the left.
(see photo on page 8 - Cameron claim)

The HISTORY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Continued from page 8

They found the trip exceedingly ^{rough} and laborious, especially in descending the steep banks of the creek they came to. The former called out to his companions, "Boys, this ^{is} lightning," it being a favorite expression with him in meeting anything difficult to overcome." ⁷⁷

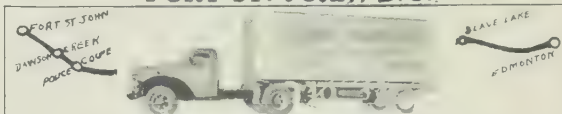
Every creek proved to be gold-bearing. The news of their richness, not losing by repetition, the Fraser, the Thompson, and the Rock Creek diggings, which for some time had been gradually falling into the hands of the Chinese, were practically abandoned to them.

On Fort Yale Bar, which lay at the foot of the high bank of Water Street, in front of the Hudson's Bay Company property, the miners were, in 1861, prohibited by Mr. E. Howard Saunders, the Assistant Gold Commissioner, from further mining operations, owing to the danger of undermining the wagon road. At that time the ground was paying an ounce a day to the man.

So the spring and summer of 1861 saw the mountains of Cariboo swarming with eager miners, many of whom had left good diggings in the lower country.

⁷⁷ Mining Report, 1875, p. 608.

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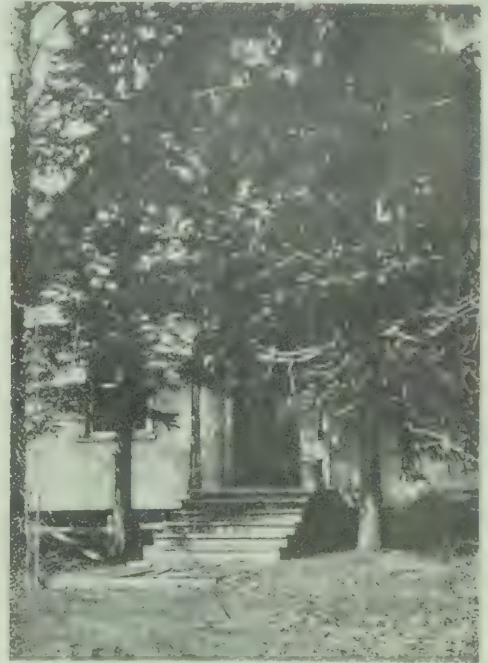
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Williams Creek, for a time, gave such poor results that it was called Humbug Creek. During the early summer of 1861 mining was confined to the portion above (south of) the canyon. There the pay dirt, the bed of the old creek, lay close to the surface, usually within eight or twelve feet. At that depth a hard blue clay was met which was supposed to be the bed-rock, and upon it good pay was found. But later in that year Mr. Abbott of the Jourdan and Abbott claim, while his partner was away for the day obtaining provisions, concluded to go through this clay and ascertain what lay below. Piercing it, he found below a stratum of gold-bearing gravel, so rich that when his partner returned after a lapse of forty-eight hours, he produced fifty ounces as a result of his explorations. Up to this time only six claims on the creek had produced gold. With this news all was changed. Hundreds crowded other hundreds in a mad rush. The whole creek and the hillside for a distance of six miles was lit-



The old courthouse at Richfield, scene of the original strike on Williams Creek.

erally covered with miners and mining claims, now increased to one hundred square feet. The only spot neglected, strange as it may seem, was the spot in the canyon where Dutch Bill had first found the gold.

But while above the canyon the diggings were shallow, permitting the barren covering to be washed off and the use of sluices and bed-rock flumes, yet below the canyon conditions were totally different. The pay dirt there lay from fifty to sixty feet below the present level. Shafts must be sunk, drifts made, and tunnels driven;



Wintertime in Barkerville

pumps would be required to keep the workings dry, and hoisting gear to raise the dirt to the surface to be washed. This work could be carried on throughout the year, while the advent of winter prevented all operations in the surface diggings above the canyon.

Douglas reported that the least Abbott and Jourdan took out, with three men, was one hundred and twenty ounces a day. "They have a flour sack of gold fourteen inches high." The gold on this creek was rounded water-worn and of a fineness of .830. Judge Begbie reported in September, 1861, that the Abbott and Jourdan claim, and the Steele claim, which were both in shallow diggings above the canyon, were producing from thirty to forty POUNDS of gold per day; and that Steele had informed him that they had taken out in one day three hundred and seventy ounces. The greatest day's yield of the Steele claim in 1861 was four hundred and nine ounces.

On Lowhee, Willoughby, the discoverer, with from four to seven men, between July 27th and September the 8th, 1861, took out three thousand and thirty-seven ounces, worth, at that time, about \$50,000, from a strip four hundred feet along the creek by twelve feet wide. In no place did this excavation to bed-rock exceed four feet, and usually but three. A Mr. Patterson and

Concluded on page 46

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their handful of provisions were soon exhausted and they were faced with a march of about seventy miles down the frozen Peace River without nourishment of any kind.

The party had no sooner entered the pass between the towering mountains than the wind came tearing and howling at them accompanied by driving snow of blizzard proportions that hid both the frozen river and the mountain peaks. For two days they struggled in their weakened state against the icy wind and blinding snow that seemed determined to prevent them from reaching a peaceful haven and safety. However, they at last emerged from the gloomy chasm of frowning crags and storms and the main range commenced to display signs of flattening out into high hills only. The wind lessened and they could at least go along a little faster. The man "John", now all but collapsed, and it was necessary for the leader, weakened as he was, to retrace his steps and make a last effort to force him on. This time his threats were meant, and not merely a bluff to help the weakened and hopeless man along. John must have realized this and made a last desperate effort to come along.

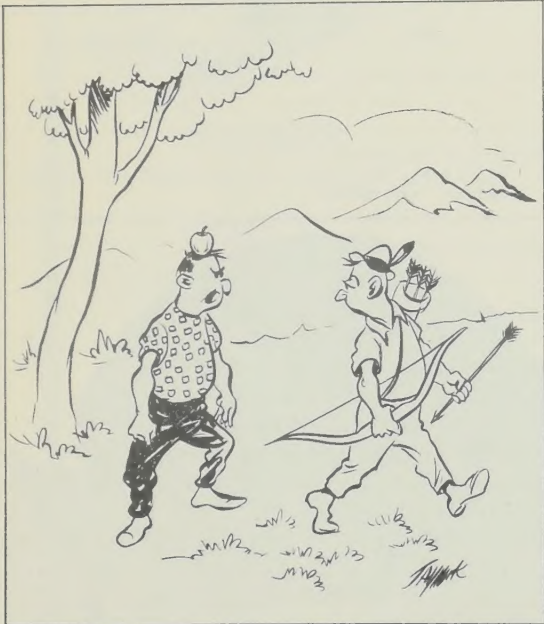
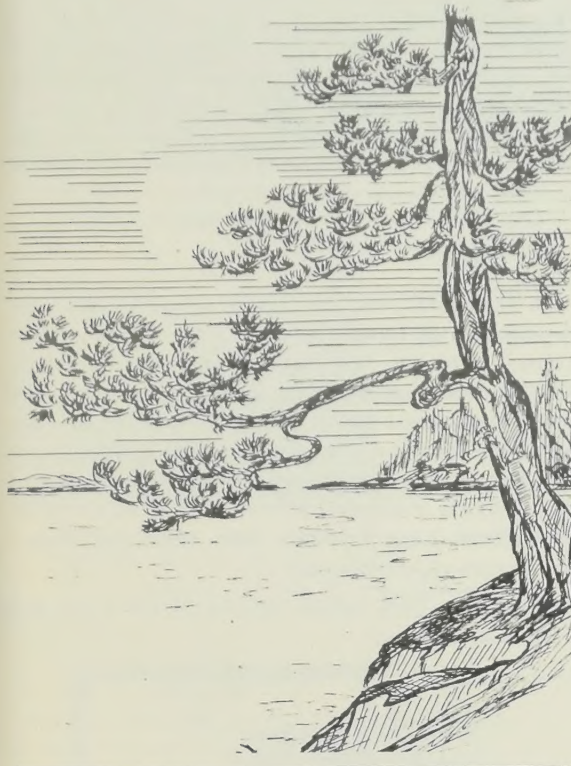
The next day, after seemingly endless windings of the great, frozen Peace River, the trading post of 'Twelve Foot Davis' could be seen afar off. Even after this post was in sight at the head of the Rocky Mountain Canyon it was hours before the party came abreast of the foot-path that led to the water hole in the ice before the trader's cabin. One by one they stumbled to the door and entered the comfortable warm post.

Twelve Foot Davis was almost speechless at their condition, as well he might have been. It was a month since they had left and he had thought that long ere this they had reached the outposts of civilization to the west. They were thin, gaunt and blackened with wind and frost. Their faces were hung with ice-matted beards and spotted with frost-bite. It was days before they were out of danger and free from overpowering sickness after eating.

Davis did a good job of nursing them in his crowded quarters, but it was a long time before any of the party was in fit condition to take to the trail again for their various goals across the mountains.

Such is the true tale of one voyage that took place sixty years ago in the great lonely land of Northern British Columbia.

Author's Note: The incidents referred to in the foregoing are taken from Warburton-Pike's book, "The Barren Land of Canada," and most of the descriptions of country and features from my own intimate knowledge of the area.
W.N.C.



...you're crazy if you think I'm going to stand here and let you ruin a perfectly good apple."

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DAWSON CREEK, B. C.



The HISTORY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Continued from page 43

his brother brought back \$10,000. as a result of five weeks mining on Lowhee Creek. Their largest day's return was about seventy-three ounces, worth about \$1,000. The gold in this creek was in rough jagged pieces, weighing sometimes from six to ten ounces. Its quality .930.

On Lightning Creek, Mr. Ball reported on Oct. 1st, 1861, that one Ned Campbell had taken out the almost fabulous sum of nine hundred ounces the first day, five hundred ounces the second day, and three hundred ounces the third day. Another authority says that this claim, which cost \$25,000 to open, returned \$100,000 in three months. The bed-rock on Lightning, where first mined, was from eight to thirty feet below the surface.

The returns from Antler creek for 1861, while respectable, are far, far below such colossal figures as the above. One company of four men were making from four to nine ounces per day per man; and the average was from \$20 to \$50 per day for each man employed. The Rev. R.C. Lundin Brown records his being present when \$1,000 in gold was taken from the sluice boxes as a result of one day's work.

On Keithly Creek in 1861, the returns were smaller. Several companies were making from \$50 to \$100 per day to the man in the bed of the creek, and somewhat better in the bench diggings. Most of the miners were making from two to three ounces per day. During this summer there were some two hundred men on the creek. Outside of the mining on the creek itself, Keithly - the collection of houses at the mouth of the creek - was the supply centre for the Cariboo Lake and North Quesnel region.

88 O.C. Papers, pt. 4, p. 61.



After the rich ground was worked out, dredges like that shown above were brought in to mine the low grade deposits.

In February, 1861, a distinguished visitor, in the person of Lady Franklin, the widow of Sir John Franklin, the celebrated but ill-fated Arctic discoverer, arrived in the colony. She remained about three months. Wherever she went she was the recipient of addresses from the people and every kindness was shown her. Her travels extended as far as Little Canyon above Yale. Lady Franklin rock, near that town, was named in her honour.

NEXT ISSUE - THE DEEP DIGGINGS OF CARIBOO

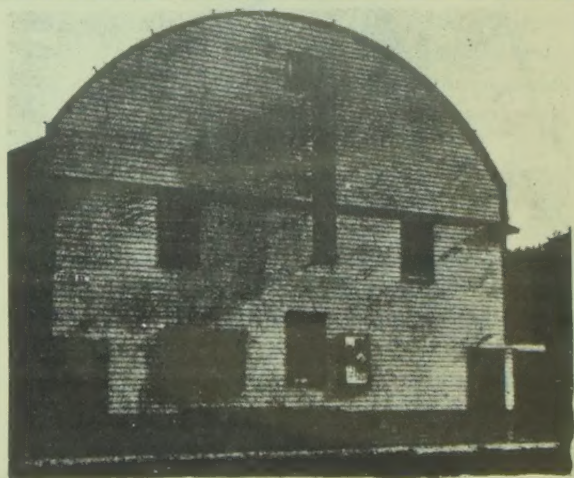


'All right, wise guy...if you think you can do better. you drive!'

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Skeena River near Skeena Siding on the road to Prince Rupert, B.C.

photo, courtesy B.C. Gov't. Travel Bureau

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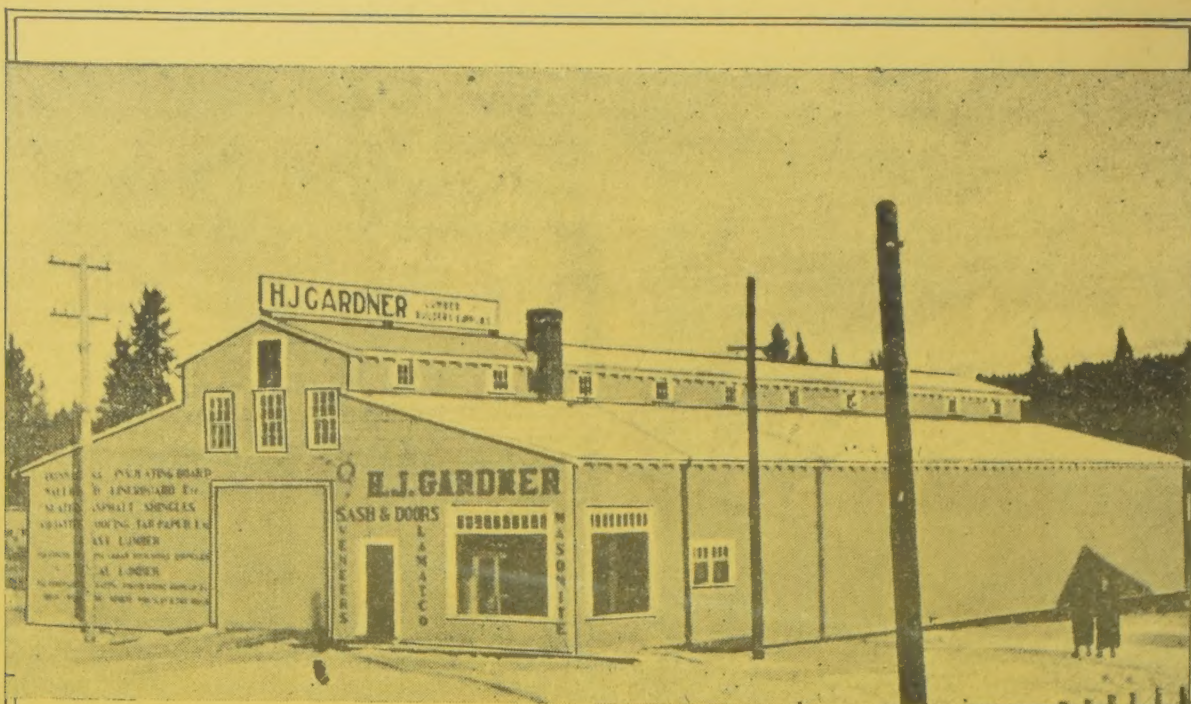
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